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REVISED INTERNATIONAL SAFETYNET MANUAL

1 The Maritime Safety Committee (MSC), at its eighty-seventh session (12 to 21 May 2010), noted and approved the revised International SafetyNET Manual, as prepared by IHO, WMO and IMSO and agreed by the Sub-Committee on Radiocommunications and Search and Rescue (COMSAR) at its fourteenth session (8 to 12 March 2010).

2 This circular supersedes MSC/Circ.1064 and replaces the existing text of the International SafetyNET Manual.

3 The Committee decided that the amendments will come into force on 1 January 2012.

PREFACE

SOLAS regulation IV/12.2 states that "Every ship, while at sea, shall maintain a radio watch for broadcasts of maritime safety information on the appropriate frequency or frequencies on which such information is broadcast for the area in which the ship is navigating".

At the request of the IMO Sub-Committee on Radiocommunications, the International SafetyNET Manual was first produced in 1994. The second edition was published in 2003 containing amendments endorsed by the Maritime Safety Committee at its seventy-sixth session in December 2002 by MSC/Circ.1064.

At its seventh meeting in September 2005, the IHO's Commission on the Promulgation of Radio Navigational Warnings (CPRNW¹) established a Working Group to review all World-Wide Navigational Warning Service (WWNWS) documentation. The Working Group included representation from the WMO and prepared at first, revisions to IMO resolutions A.705(17), "Promulgation of Maritime Safety Information" and A.706(17), "World-Wide Navigational Warning Service". The proposed revisions of the resolutions were circulated to IHO Member States under IHB CL 104/2007, endorsed by COMSAR at its twelfth session in April 2008 and subsequently approved by the Maritime Safety Committee at its eighty-fifth session in November/December 2008 by MSC.1/Circ.1287 and MSC.1/Circ.1288 respectively.

The IHO CPRNW¹ Working Group then prepared the revised Joint IMO/IHO/WMO Manual on Maritime Safety Information incorporating the revised information from resolutions A.705(17), as amended and A.706(17), as amended. The revised text of the Joint IMO/IHO/WMO Manual on Maritime Safety Information was circulated to IHO Member States under cover of IHB CL 70/2008, endorsed by COMSAR at its thirteenth session in January 2009 and subsequently approved by the Maritime Safety Committee at its eighty-sixth session in May/June 2009 by MSC.1/Circ.1310.

Continuing with the holistic approach of reviewing all the MSI documents from the top-down, the IHO WWNWS Working Group prepared the third revision of the International SafetyNET Manual. The revised text of the International SafetyNET Manual was circulated to IHO Member States under cover of IHB CL 68/2009, endorsed by COMSAR at its fourteenth session in March 2010 and subsequently approved by the Maritime Safety Committee at its eighty-seventh session in May 2010.

¹

CPRNW was renamed the IHO WWNWS Sub Committee (WWNWS) with effect from 1 January 2009.

CONTENTS

SECTION	PAGE
1. GENERAL INFORMATION	4
2. SAFETYNET SERVICE	4
2.1 Introduction	4
2.2 Definitions	6
2.2.2 NAVAREAS with Inmarsat satellite ocean region coverage	11
2.2.3 METAREAS with Inmarsat satellite ocean region coverage	12
3. GENERAL FEATURES OF THE EGC SYSTEM	13
4. PLANNING OF NEW SAFETYNET SERVICES	13
5. CHANGES TO SAFETYNET SERVICES	14
6. OPERATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL SAFETYNET SERVICE	14
7. PROMULGATION OF MARITIME SAFETY INFORMATION	16
8. MESSAGE FORMATTING AND C CODES	17
9. MONITORING OF MSI BROADCASTS	18
9.3 EGC SafetyNET Log	19
10. QUALITY CONTROL OF MSI BROADCASTS	19
10.1 Misuse of C-codes	19
10.2 Improper use of C1 priority codes	19
10.3 Improper use of C2 service codes	20
10.4 Improper use of C4 repetition codes	21
11. Accessing the SafetyNET service	22
12. Land Earth Station functions	22
13. Receiving SafetyNET broadcasts	23
14. Charges for SafetyNET services	25
Annex 1 - International SafetyNET Co-ordinating Panel	26
1 Terms of reference	26
2 Contact address	26
3 Panel membership	26
Annex 2 - Authorization, Certification and Registration of SafetyNET information providers	27
1 Authorization	27
2 Certification	28
3 Registration	28
4 Contact addresses	28
5 Sample Certificate of Authorization	29
Annex 3 - The Inmarsat system	30
1 Introduction	30
2 Bandwidths	30
3 The space segment	30
4 The ground segment	30
5 Mobile Earth Stations (MESs)	31
Annex 4 - Operational guidance	32
Part A - Navigational warning services	35
Part B - Meteorological services	37
Part C - Search and rescue services	39
Part D - Piracy countermeasures broadcast messages	43
Part E - Repetition Codes (C4)	46
Annex 5 - EGC receiver specifications	48
Annex 6 - Procedure for amending the International SafetyNET Manual	57

8 – MESSAGE FORMATTING AND C CODES

8.1 EGC messages include instructions to the LES for processing MSI in the form of a special address header that consists of five (or six) C-codes as described below. In order for a message to be correctly processed, it must always consist of data conforming to C codes "1" to "5". Additionally, C code "0" shall be used when required by the service provider.

- C₀** Ocean Region code - 1 digit (when required)
0 - Atlantic Ocean Region - West
1 - Atlantic Ocean Region - East
2 - Pacific Ocean Region
3 - Indian Ocean Region
9 - all ocean regions (*Note: availability of C₀ = 9 should be checked with LES operator or service provider*)
- C₁** priority code - 1 digit code
- C₂** service code - 2 digit code
- C₃** address code - 2, 4, 10 or 12 alphanumeric code
- C₄** repetition code - 2 digit code
- C₅** presentation code - normally a 2 digit code

C Codes					
C ₀ Ocean Region code (when required)	C ₁ Priority code	C ₂ Service code	C ₃ Address code	C ₄ Repetition code (See Annex 4, Part E)	C ₅ Presentatio n code
1 digit code	1 digit code	2 digit code	2, 4, 10 or 12 alphanumeric code	2 digit code	Normally a 2 digit code
0 - AOR-W 1 – AOR-E 2 – POR 3 – IOR 9 – All Ocean Regions ¹	1 - Safety 2 - Urgency 3 - Distress	00 – All ships (general call)	2 digit - 00 (All ships)	Category (a) – for EGC messages to be repeated a finite number of times. Category (b) – for EGC messages to be repeated at specified intervals until cancelled by the MSI provider.	00
		04 – Navigational, Meteorological or Piracy warning to a rectangular area	12 alphanumeric rectangular area address D ₁ D ₂ N(S)D ₃ D ₄ D ₅ E(W)D ₆ D ₇ D ₈ D ₉ D ₁₀		
		13 – Navigational, Meteorological or Piracy Coastal warning	4 alphanumeric coastal warning area address X ₁ X ₂ B ₁ B ₂		
		14 – Shore-to-Ship Distress Alert to a circular area	10 alphanumeric circular area address D ₁ D ₂ N(S)D ₃ D ₄ E(W)M ₁ M ₂ M		
		24 – Navigational, Meteorological or Piracy warning to a circular area	10 alphanumeric circular area address D ₁ D ₂ N(S)D ₃ D ₄ E(W)M ₁ M ₂ M ₃		
		31 – NAVAREA/ METAREA warning, MET Forecast or Piracy warning to NAVAREA /METAREA	2 digit – NAVAREA/METAREA number		
		34 – SAR Coordination to a rectangular area	12 alphanumeric rectangular area address D ₁ D ₂ N(S)D ₃ D ₄ D ₅ E(W)D ₆ D ₇ D ₈ D ₉ D ₁₀		
		44 – SAR Coordination to a circular area	10 alphanumeric circular area address D ₁ D ₂ N(S)D ₃ D ₄ E(W)M ₁ M ₂ M ₃		
1) Subject to availability through LES or service provider					

Part D - Piracy countermeasures broadcast messages

1 On receiving a message of alert or any other information concerning a threat of attack (from the Security Forces Authority responsible for the operational application of the urgency plans (countermeasures) in the region or another MRCC, for example), the MRCC should ask the NAVAREA co-ordinator (or any other competent authority in accordance with local arrangements), to send out a warning through the appropriate MSI network (NAVTEX or SafetyNET) and other broadcasting networks for warnings to shipping, if these exist.

2 There are two kinds of MSI broadcast messages associated with piracy countermeasures: the daily situation report (SITREP) and a piracy attack warning. Specific guidance on drafting and broadcasting these messages is given below.

3 The daily situation report should be broadcast via SafetyNET at a regular time around 0800 local time daily. The following paragraphs provide specific guidance on broadcast procedures.

4 The daily situation report should be broadcast to a rectangular area enclosing the region of probable piracy attacks (based on historical data) plus a margin of 700 nautical miles (24 hours' steaming by a fast ship) in every direction.

5 The following C codes illustrate those to be used for SafetyNET broadcasts of the daily SITREP:

5.1 *C₁ – Message priority*

C ₁ = 1 (safety)

5.2 *C₂ – Service code*

C ₂ = 04	SITREP to a rectangular area.
C ₂ = 24	SITREP to a circular area.

5.3 *C₃ – Address code*

C ₃ = twelve alphanumeric characters D ₁ D ₂ LaD ₃ D ₄ D ₅ LoD ₆ D ₇ D ₈ D ₉ D ₁₀	When C ₂ = 04 SITREP to a rectangular area. <i>Note: The definition of 12 characters for a Rectangular address is given in Part A, paragraph 5.3</i>
C ₃ = ten alphanumeric characters D ₁ D ₂ LaD ₃ D ₄ D ₅ LoR ₁ R ₂ R ₃	When C ₂ = 24 SITREP to a circular area. <i>Note: The definition of 10 characters for a circular address is given in Part C, paragraph 3.3.</i>

5.4 *C₄ – Repetition code*

C ₄ = 18	Broadcast every 24 hours (no echo) until cancelled
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5.5 *C₅ – Presentation code*

C ₅ = 00	The code 00 for International Alphabet Number 5 is normally used
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- 8** Date/time should always be quoted in the form DDHHMM UTC MoMoMo YY, e.g.,

251256 UTC JUN 12.

Note: UTC (Universal Co-ordinated Time) is the same time-zone as GMT (Z).

- 9** Geographical positions should be quoted in the standard format:
D₁D₂M₁M₂La D₃D₄D₅M₃M₄Lo where:

D₁D₂ = degrees latitude (with leading zero if required)

M₁M₂ = minutes latitude

La = hemisphere (N or S)

D₃D₄D₅ = degrees longitude (with leading zeros if required)

M₃M₄ = minutes longitude

Lo = longitude (E or W)

as in the example: 5419N10327E

Notes:

1. Examples of format and drafting guidance for Piracy Warnings is contained in the Joint IMO/IHO/WMO Manual on Maritime Safety Information (IMO MSC.1/Circ.1310 and IHO Special Publication No. S53.)
2. Decimals of minutes will seldom be necessary or appropriate for reports of this kind.
3. Where the name of a geographical feature is used instead of a geographical position, a name should be chosen that appears on all commonly used charts of the area. Local knowledge should not be required for understanding the message.

Annex 6

Procedure for amending the International SafetyNET Manual

- 1** Proposals for amendment or enhancement of the International SafetyNET Manual should be submitted to the IMO Maritime Safety Committee through the Sub-Committee on Radiocommunications and Search and Rescue.
 - 2** Amendments to this Manual should normally come into force at intervals of approximately two years or at such longer periods as determined by the Maritime Safety Committee at the time of adoption. Amendments adopted by Maritime Safety Committee will be notified to all concerned, will provide at least 12 months' notification and will come into force on 1 January of the following year.
 - 3** The agreement of the International Hydrographic Organization, International Mobile Satellite Organization, the World Meteorological Organization and the active participation of other bodies should be sought, according to the nature of the proposed amendments.
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